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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

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Wednesday - 14 December 1955

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There was also some discussion of Congressman Anfuso's position that veterans' benefits should be extended to X civilian employees of OSS. The Director expressed some sympathy with the plight of individuals who had expressly refused military commissions during the war because they felt they could carry out their OSS duties more effectively as civilians. Mr. Paul told Cong. Anfuso that he would get in touch with him when he returns to Washington in January, and discuss this matter further.

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2. Commissioners Spencer and Lane of the District of Columbia visited the Director today to express certain views as to the effect of locating CIA at Langley, Virginia on the traffic situation within the District of Columbia. Col. White and I also attended this meeting. The Commissioners expressed the opinion that, even with the road and bridge improvements presently planned, there would be a heavy additional load on roads on the District side of the Potomac, and on the Chain Bridge. The Commissioners felt that inasmuch as a widening of Chain Bridge and the District accesses thereto was not presently included in any long range development plan, the new load upon these facilities would be directly attributable to the location of a large Federal installation (CIA headquarters) just across the river. Therefore, they felt that the Federal Government and not the District of Columbia should be requested to provide funds for any improvements required as a result of a heavy increase in traffic on these facilities. The Director agreed that if a serious traffic problem did in fact result for the District from our movement to Langley, he would support a request for Federal funds to correct the situation.

3. The Director, together with Messrs. White, Chandler and Paul met with Robert Estabrook, Editorial Page Editor of the Washington Post, the meeting having been arranged as the result of a conversation between Mr. Graham, Publisher of the Post, and the Director. The Director and Col. White described in detail to Mr. Estabrook the considerations which led to the selection of Langley as the best site for the new CIA headquarters, and the Director further informed Mr. Estabrook that he felt that the Post editorials had given a somewhat misleading impression to their readers with regard to this matter. Mr. Estabrook indicated that the meeting was useful to him and that he had learned certain facts, particularly with respect to the Winkler tract, which he had not heretofore known. He did not give any indication, however, that he would make any changes in the general line of the editorials which he might write on the subject. He seemed particularly interested in the reasons why the District was ruled out as a possible location, and specifically asked the Director whether CIA would object to locating in the Northwest sector of Washington if suitable arrangements as to space, access, etc., could be worked out. The Director pointed out that as far as he was concerned the District had been ruled out from further consideration, on the basis of a high level decision within the Executive Branch which was supported by the majority of Congressmen with whom the subject had been discussed.

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